for the past several decades for supplying coal to the domestic consumers with Daltonganj Coal Merchant's Association, Calcutta, Calcutta Coal Holders Association, Sealdah, Ballyganj Coal Depot Holder Federation and Ketla Railway Coal Depot Holders Association ;

(b) whether it is a fact that because of non-supply of coal by the Coal India Limited, the Burnpur Steel Plant was supplying 4200 wagons annually for supply of bridge coal, which was 50 per cent less than before ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Burnpur Steel Plant is not able to supply even 5000 tonnes of bridge Coal per month in place of 40,000 tonnes as a result of which small traders have been suffering ; and

(d) whether Government propose to make arrangements for the supply of 40,000 tonnes of bridge coal per month from the Bokaro Steel Plant with a full compliment of wagons in order to save the traders from doom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d) The information is bing collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Allocating Railway Wagons

1084. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH :

SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Member (Traffic) is not allocating railway wagons to small parties, but is allocating them to big traders in connivance with the Zonal General Managers ;

(b) whether it is a fact that earlier, two/three traders used to combine for loading their goods in one wagon and in order to encourage this practice, the railways were giving them 50 per cent concession as against those who were hiring a full-rate and whether the rates have now been enhanced four times because of which the traders with small capital are suffering ; and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to provide relief to the small traders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Purchasing Cement Sleepers

1085. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH :

SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the private and public companies from whom cement sleepers are being purchased by Govt ;

(b) the number of railway bridges under construction at present, zone-wise and division-wise ;

(c) the details of the bridges constructed during the last three years and the bridges proposed to be constructed during the Eighth Plan period ;

(d) the name of the parties and the details of the works awarded to them and whether it is a fact that the Member (Civil Engineering) in connivance with the Zonal General Managers and Chief Engineers has awarded works to L-II parties resulting in loss of millions of rupees to Government ; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to get the matter investigated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Concrete sleepers are currently purchased from 60 Private companies and 1 Public Sector Company.